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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,014	06/27/2003	Masami Tomita	239544US2	4930

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EXAMINER

GOODROW, JOHN L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1756

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/607,014	Applicant(s) TOMITA ET AL.	
	Examiner John L Goodrow	Art Unit 1756	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20 pages</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The container is not limited by what is in it. The container has no structure and is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1-13, 15-18, 21, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emoto et al in view of EP 1 026 554. Emoto teaches a toner comprising toner particles comprising a binder resin and a colorant. The physical properties of Dv/Dn is shown [0027] and the average particle size of 3-8 μ m and circularity (spherical degree) note [0067]. The acid value claim 10 is shown [0059]. Emoto teaches the use of polyester as the binder for the toners but fails to teach the use of a polyester resin with a urea group. EP' 554 discloses a toner comprising a binder and a colorant. The binder resin comprises a urea-modified polyester and an unmodified polyester resin. The toner has a sphericity of .97 and is obtained by

dissolving or dispersing the binder resin and colorant in an organic solvent to form a liquid mixture, dispersing the liquid mixture in an aqueous medium to form particles and removing the solvent from the particles. See page 16, paragraphs 0248-0249 and examples I-4 at page 17-18. This resin binder is superior in fluidity and transferability. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art with a reasonable expectation of success at the time of applicant's invention to use the improved binder for the polyester binder of Emoto in a toner used as a developer in the developing of electrostatic images to improve the physical properties of the toner.

5. Claims 19, 20, 22, 24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomita et al in view of JP 2000-305360. Tomita et al teaches a dry toner of a size 3-10 μ m and a Dv/Dp of 1.05-1.25 note Col.4 lines 1-5. A wax Col.10 lines 50-55 and a modified urea polyester Col. 5 lines 1-5 along with unmodified polyester Col.8 lines 20-25 are shown to be of importance in the toner composition. Fine inorganic particles can be used as fluidizing agents note Col. 11 lines 55-69. Tomita fails to show the importance of the attenuation factor of magnetic density when used in a magnetic developing device. JP 2000-305360 teaches the importance of the attenuation factor of the magnetic density and this factor appears to be a factor with the developer and developing method such as magnetic brush development. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention with a reasonable expectation of success to use the pole and half pole values with the developer of Tomita in a process of developing an electrophotographic latent image to improve the quality and prevent end void and burr in a low contrast image.

Double Patenting

6. Claims 1-13, 15-18, 21, 23, and 25 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-29 of copending Application No. 10/729960. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the toner particles have the same range of physical properties.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John L Goodrow whose telephone number is 571-272-1384. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Friday.

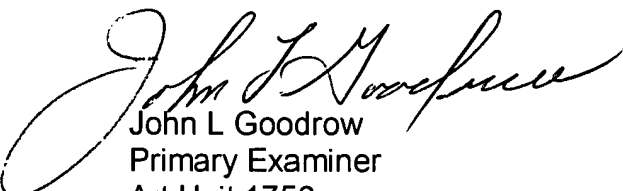
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark F Huff can be reached on 571-272-1385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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John L. Goodrow
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1756
